

the USA, when the truck bomb exploded, ripping out the walls of the consular section. She did not make it through the blast. She died.

When she was buried, her family with tears streaming down their eyes remembered the jubilation of her getting up that morning and going to the embassy to apply, for her dream to come to this country to study. It was not Maritee's fault, the bombs were targeted for Americans.

We cannot bring Maritee back, but we can pass a bill and show our support and sympathy for the Kenyan and Tanzanian people.

Also at this time, in concluding this portion, I would like to express my gratitude to France, Israel and South Africa for their valor, dedication and commitment. I know that Israel brought in sniffer dogs to locate missing people trapped in the rubble and debris.

South Africa responded almost immediately. They facilitated and expedited a route allowing our Air Force and the FBI to fly through South Africa to Nairobi and Dar es Salaam. They also brought back injured people, lifting visa restrictions, and sent their medical experts to care for the wounded.

Months later they had a similar bombing at the Hard Rock Cafe in Cape Town, South Africa. I know they had to work very closely with our FBI during this second attack in South Africa, and they have been very, very supportive in working closely with us.

In closing, I would like to express support for the immediate and decisive decision taken by the President. The strikes at the Shifa Pharmaceutical Plant in Khartoum and the terrorist camps in Afghanistan will help to stave off impending terrorist threats by Osama Bin Laden and his Taliban terrorist groups.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. OWENS).

(Mr. OWENS asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this legislation, because I think it is evidence of the great Nation of America acting in a small way to deal with a problem. It will probably be ignored and not recognized. Nobody knows it, but in very small ways we have attempted to provide as much assistance as possible to all the victims of the bombings in Kenya and elsewhere. We have taken steps to deal with the medical bills, the hardship suffered by the people surrounding the embassy and those killed in the embassy.

The whole matter has been brought home to us as members of the Congressional Black Caucus because two very close members of the Congressional Black Caucus family were involved. Consul General Julian Bartley had served as a fellow on the hill here for a half a year and worked with the Con-

gressional Black Caucus. His son, Jay Bartley, we also got to know, and his daughter, Edith Bartley, is still active in Congressional Black Caucus matters. It was brought home to us in a very personal way. But I think the important thing here is that this legislation is designed to help people we will never know. It is designed to help people that happened to be unfortunately there on that awful day.

The message that should go out to all across the world is you need never fear being a friend of America. To be an ally of America, to host an embassy in your country, there is nothing unique to fear. We will stand by our friends.

We have many enemies in the world, and for good reason. We have enemies who are seeking to maintain old systems that we are definitely against. We are against slavery in the Sudan and slavery in Mauritania. We are against the Taliban enslavement of women in Afghanistan. We are against a lot of things that create a lot of enemies.

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But we are also the most admired country in the world. People know that we will stand by our friends in every way. We stood by France a couple of centuries after they helped us in the Revolutionary War. Our troops were on the beaches of Normandy.

This is the American colossus which is unlike any empire that ever existed; not an empire, really, but we have influence all over the world. We probably have more friends and more people who admire Americans than any other Nation in the world. That is for a good reason, because we do stand by our friends. We do stand for principles and values that large numbers of people identify with.

That creates incidents. It leads to bombings, like the one in Kenya. We have retaliated, and many people are upset with the fact that we did retaliate by sending bombs into Afghanistan and then into Sudan. But if we are in a situation where terrorism is the way of the future, and there is a new form of war which can strike anybody, and you are guilty even by association, by friendship, then everybody is included. Terrorism can strike anywhere and we must strike back.

The fact that we are acting today to indicate that we recognize that innocent victims need to be compensated; innocent victims need to be recognized. This Act is addressing the fact that there were people who wanted to obtain visas and wanted to come to this country whose visas were not prosecuted in a timely way. But we have also had legislation for which I understand monies are being appropriated to deal with the expenses incurred by people who suffered hardships from this awful tragedy.

I want to salute the sponsors of this legislation, Mr. Speaker, and the whole spirit of the legislation, which sends a clear message to all those nations in the world, and certainly the under-

developed Nations, which is that you need not fear, you need not back away from an alliance with America. You need not fear standing for the same kind of principles that we do. You need not fear hosting our personnel or being the home of one of our embassies. We are in a world where everybody is targeted by terrorists, and anybody at any time can be a victim. But this Nation will stand by its friends. This Nation has shown that it is ready to act in a humane manner.

In the case of Julian Bartley and his son, Jay Bartley, I think special efforts were made and a special dispensation was undertaken. Both of them were buried in Arlington Cemetery. That is the kind of gesture of a great president, of a great Nation, that is indicative of what is happening here. We are taking care of people who were victimized unnecessarily, and I wholeheartedly support this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support of H.R. 4821.

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to pay tribute to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. LAMAR SMITH), our colleague on the Committee on the Judiciary, who supported the production, promotion, and the final passage, as we envision it, of this legislation. He has also worked hard on questions of immigration and visas for these purposes, and he deserves a lot of credit for what has occurred here, along with the inspiration of the legislation, the gentleman from New York (Mr. BEN GILMAN), who, in his position as chairman of that relevant committee, also has worked very hard to get to our final stages.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. RIGGS). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GEKAS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4821.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof), the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GRANTING CONSENT OF CONGRESS TO PACIFIC NORTHWEST EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENT

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate joint resolution (S.J. Res. 35) granting the consent of Congress to the Pacific Northwest Emergency Management Arrangement.

The Clerk read as follows:

S.J. RES. 35

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. CONGRESSIONAL CONSENT.

Congress consents to the Pacific Northwest Emergency Management Arrangement entered into between the States of Alaska,

Idaho, Oregon, and Washington, and the Province of British Columbia and the Yukon Territory. The arrangement is substantially as follows:

"PACIFIC NORTHWEST EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENT"

"Whereas, Pacific Northwest emergency management arrangement between the government of the States of Alaska, the government of the State of Idaho, the government of the State of Oregon, the government of the State of Washington, the government of the State of the Providence of British Columbia, and the government of Yukon Territory hereinafter referred to collectively as the 'Signatories' and separately as a 'Signatory';

"Whereas, the Signatories recognize the importance of comprehensive and coordinated civil emergency preparedness, response and recovery measures for natural and technological emergencies or disasters, and for declared or undeclared hostilities including enemy attack;

"Whereas, the Signatories further recognize the benefits of coordinating their separate emergency preparedness, response and recovery measures with that of contiguous jurisdictions for those emergencies, disasters, or hostilities affecting or potentially affecting any one or more of the Signatories in the Pacific Northwest; and

"Whereas, the Signatories further recognize that regionally based emergency preparedness, response and recovery measures will benefit all jurisdictions within the Pacific Northwest, and best serve their respective national interests in cooperative and coordinated emergency preparedness as facilitated by the Consultative Group on Comprehensive Civil Emergency and Management established in the Agreement Between the government of the United States of America and the government of Canada on Cooperation and Comprehensive Civil Emergency Planning and Management signed at Ottawa, Ontario, Canada on April 28, 1986: Now, therefore, be it is hereby agreed by and between each and all of the Signatories hereto as follows:

"ADVISORY COMMITTEE"

"(1) An advisory committee named the Western Regional Emergency Management Advisory Committee (W-REMAC) shall be established which will include one member appointed by each Signatory.

"(2) The W-REMAC will be guided by the agreed-upon Terms of Reference-Annex A.

"PRINCIPLES OF COOPERATION"

"(3) Subject to the laws of each Signatory, the following cooperative principles are to be used as a guide by the Signatories in civil emergency matters which may affect more than one Signatory:

"(A) The authorities of each Signatory may seek the advice, cooperation, or assistance of any other Signatory in any civil emergency matter.

"(B) Nothing in the arrangement shall derogate from the applicable laws within the jurisdiction of any Signatory. However, the authorities of any Signatory may request from the authorities of any other signatory appropriate alleviation of such laws if their normal application might lead to delay or difficulty in the rapid execution of necessary civil emergency measures.

"(C) Each Signatory will use its best efforts to facilitate the movement of evacuees, refugees, civil emergency personnel, equipment or other resources into or across its territory, or to a designated staging area when it is agreed that such movement or staging will facilitate civil emergency operations by the affected or participating Signatories.

"(D) In times of emergency, each Signatory will use its best efforts to ensure that the citizens or residents of any other Signatory present in its territory are provided emergency health services and emergency social services in a manner no less favorable than that provided to its own citizens.

"(E) Each Signatory will use discretionary power as far as possible to avoid levy of any tax, tariff, business license, or user fees on the services, equipment, and supplies of any other Signatory which is engaged in civil emergency activities in the territory of another Signatory, and will use its best efforts to encourage local governments or other jurisdictions within its territory to do likewise.

"(F) When civil emergency personnel, contracted firms or personnel, vehicles, equipment, or other services from any Signatory are made available to or are employed to assist any other Signatory, all providing Signatories will use best efforts to ensure that charges, levies, or costs for such use or assistance will not exceed those paid for similar use of such resources within their own territory.

"(G) Each Signatory will exchange contact lists, warning and notification plans, and selected emergency plans and will call to the attention of their respective local governments and other jurisdictional authorities in areas adjacent to intersignatory boundaries, the desirability of compatibility of civil emergency plans and the exchange of contact lists, warning and notification plans, and selected emergency plans.

"(H) The authority of any Signatory conducting an exercise will ensure that all other signatories are provided an opportunity to observe, and/or participate in such exercises.

"COMPREHENSIVE NATURE"

"(4) This document is a comprehensive arrangement on civil emergency planning and management. To this end and from time to time as necessary, all Signatories shall—

"(A) review and exchange their respective contact lists, warning and notification plans, and selected emergency plans; and

"(B) as appropriate, provide such plans and procedures to local governments, and other emergency agencies within their respective territories.

"ARRANGEMENT NOT EXCLUSIVE"

"(5) This is not an exclusive arrangement and shall not prevent or limit other civil emergency arrangements of any nature between Signatories to this arrangement. In the event of any conflicts between the provisions of this arrangement and any other arrangement regarding emergency service entered into by two or more States of the United States who are Signatories to this arrangement, the provisions of that other arrangement shall apply, with respect to the obligations of those States to each other, and not the conflicting provisions of this arrangement.

"AMENDMENTS"

"(6) This Arrangement and the Annex may be amended (and additional Annexes may be added) by arrangement of the Signatories.

"CANCELLATION OR SUBSTITUTION"

"(7) Any Signatory to this Arrangement may withdraw from or cancel their participation in this Arrangement by giving sixty days, written notice in advance of this effective date to all other Signatories.

"AUTHORITY"

"(8) All Signatories to this Arrangement warrant they have the power and capacity to accept, execute, and deliver this Arrangement.

"EFFECTIVE DATE"

"(9) Notwithstanding any dates noted elsewhere, this Arrangement shall commence April 1, 1996."

SEC. 2. INCONSISTENCY OF LANGUAGE.

The validity of the arrangements consented to by this Act shall not be affected by any insubstantial difference in their form or language as adopted by the States and provinces.

SEC. 3. RIGHT TO ALTER, AMEND, OR REPEAL.

The right to alter, amend, or repeal this Act is hereby expressly reserved.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GEKAS) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GEKAS).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this particular piece of legislation is mandated, actually, by the Constitution. The Constitution says that when two States arrive at some kind of arrangement between the two that arises to the level of a compact, a binding agreement, that then the Congress of the United States must approve such a compact, else the Framers of the Constitution felt that would lead to conflict that might turn even violent if it were not guaranteed by the Federal Government, as one of the oversee functions it would have, should such an agreement be reached. So the Congress of the United States has, from time to time, approved these compacts.

Such a compact was proposed a long time ago now, it seems, with respect to the Pacific Northwest Emergency Management Arrangement between the States of Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, Washington, and the provinces of British Columbia and the Yukon Territory.

In this bill, this compact has to do with the coordination of emergency services in disaster relief and all the hundreds of scenarios that many of us, through our years of service, have seen examples of time and time again on the floor of this Chamber.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. PAYNE asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of Senate Joint Resolution 35. Mr. Speaker, this bill would grant the consent of Congress to two compacts among Northwestern States and Canadian provinces to coordinated responses to forest fires and other emergencies.

These compacts, which have already been ratified by the affected States and provinces, require the consent of Congress to take effect under the Compacts clause of the Constitution.

This particular bill has bipartisan support of members of the other body and from States participating in these compacts. They were passed by unanimous consent in the Senate. I am not aware of any opposition to this bill.

The need for a coordinated response to fires and other emergencies is clear. I want to commend the participating States and provinces for their effort to protect human lives and property, and to safeguard the environment in this region. We need to have continued cooperation between bordering areas. I commend those who are involved in this, and I urge adoption of this measure.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I want to take some time to pay tribute here to another colleague, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. DOC HASTINGS), who, in his endeavors over the course of time in the last session and before, has come to us time and time again to press for not just this compact, but another one that we will be taking up as the next order of business.

He has worked tirelessly in this regard, and because of his perseverance, has helped to solve some serious problems in his region of the world.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of Senate Joint Resolution 35, a joint resolution granting the consent of Congress to the Pacific Northwest Emergency Management Arrangement. A compact entered into by the states of Alaska, Idaho, Oregon and Washington, as well as the Province of British Columbia and the Yukon Territory.

Mr. Speaker, these state and provincial governments have negotiated this compact to coordinate regional responses to natural disasters. As we all know, disasters do not respect state or national boundaries. To plan for and respond to these events, these northwest states and provinces have chosen to adopt a cooperative regional approach. This will improve the allocation of material, personnel, and services to mobilize as many resources as possible in the event of a natural disaster. Furthermore, the compact allows for cooperation across state and national borders without sacrificing the state or national sovereignty.

Mr. Speaker, this regional effort is non-controversial and was passed unanimously by the other body on July 31 of this year. The compact is a local and regional effort that requires the consent of Congress to take effect.

I urge my colleagues to support the efforts of these northwest states and provinces to improve emergency preparedness and pass this bipartisan legislation.

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GEKAS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate joint resolution, S.J. Res. 35.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof), the rules were suspended and the Senate joint resolution was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF BILLS TO BE CONSIDERED UNDER SUSPENSION OF THE RULES ON TODAY

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House resolution 589, I hereby give notice that the following suspensions will be considered today:

H.R. 4572, to clarify that governmental pension plans of the possessions of the United States shall be treated in the same manner as State pension plans for purposes of the limitation on the State income taxation of pension income;

H.R. 4831, to temporarily reenact chapter 12 of title 11 of the United States Code;

S. 417, Energy Conservation Reauthorization Act;

H.R. 4660, to amend the State Department Basic Authorities Act 1956 to provide rewards for information leading to the arrest or conviction of any individual for the commission of an act, or conspiracy to act, of international terrorism, narcotics-related offenses, or for serious violations of international humanitarian law relating to the former Yugoslavia.

GRANTING CONSENT AND APPROVAL OF CONGRESS TO AN INTERSTATE FOREST FIRE PROTECTION COMPACT

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 1134) granting the consent and approval of Congress to an interstate forest fire protection compact.

The Clerk read as follows:

S. 1134

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. CONSENT OF CONGRESS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The consent and approval of Congress is given to an interstate forest fire protection compact, as set out in subsection (b).

(b) COMPACT.—The compact reads substantially as follows:

“THE NORTHWEST WILDLAND FIRE PROTECTION AGREEMENT

“THIS AGREEMENT is entered into by and between the State, Provincial, and Territorial wildland fire protection agencies signatory hereto, hereinafter referred to as “Members”.

“FOR AND IN CONSIDERATION OF the following terms and conditions, the Members agree:

“Article I

“1.1 The purpose of this Agreement is to promote effective prevention, suppression and control of forest fires in the Northwest wildland region of the United States and adjacent areas of Canada (by the Members) by providing mutual aid in prevention, suppression and control of wildland fires, and by establishing procedures in operating plans that will facilitate such aid.

“Article II

“2.1 The agreement shall become effective for those Members ratifying it whenever any two or more Members, the States of Oregon, Washington, Alaska, Idaho, Montana, or the Yukon Territory, or the Province of British Columbia, or the Province of Alberta have ratified it.

“2.2 Any State, Province, or Territory not mentioned in this Article which is contiguous to any Member may become a party to this Agreement subject to unanimous approval of the Members.

“Article III

“3.1 The role of the Members is to determine from time to time such methods, practices, circumstances and conditions as may be found for enhancing the prevention, suppression, and control of forest fires in the area comprising the Member's territory; to coordinate the plans and the work of the appropriate agencies of the Members; and to coordinate the rendering of aid by the Members to each other in fighting wildland fires.

“3.2 The Members may develop cooperative operating plans for the programs covered by this Agreement. Operating plans shall include definition of terms, fiscal procedures, personnel contacts, resources available, and standards applicable to the program. Other sections may be added as necessary.

“Article IV

“4.1 A majority of Members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of its general business. Motions of Members present shall be carried by a simple majority except as stated in Article II. Each Member will have one vote on motions brought before them.

“Article V

“5.1 Whenever a Member requests aid from any other Member in controlling or preventing wildland fires, the Members agree, to the extent they possibly can, to render all possible aid.

“Article VI

“6.1 Whenever the forces of any Member are aiding another Member under this Agreement, the employees of such Member shall operate under the direction of the officers of the Member to which they are rendering aid and be considered agents of the Member they are rendering aid to and, therefore, have the same privileges and immunities as comparable employees of the Member to which they are rendering aid.

“6.2 No Member or its officers or employees rendering aid within another State, Territory, or Province, pursuant to this Agreement shall be liable on account of any act or omission on the part of such forces while so engaged, or on account of the maintenance or use of any equipment or supplies in connection therewith to the extent authorized by the laws of the Member receiving the assistance. The receiving Member, to the extent authorized by the laws of the State, Territory, or Province, agrees to indemnify and save-harmless the assisting Member from any such liability.

“6.3 Any Member rendering outside aid pursuant to this Agreement shall be reimbursed by the Member receiving such aid for any loss or damage to, or expense incurred in the operation of any equipment and for the cost of all materials, transportation, wages, salaries and maintenance of personnel and equipment incurred in connection with such request in accordance with the provisions of the previous section. Nothing contained herein shall prevent any assisting Member from assuming such loss, damage, expense or other cost or from loaning such equipment or from donating such services to the receiving Member without charge or cost.